

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 201600Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9613

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5829

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAS MISNUMBERED)

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJ: HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

REF: A. BRASILIA 5513, B. BRASILIA 5817

1. IN CONVERSATION LAST WEEK, BERENT FRIELE TOLD ME THAT JOAO LEITAO DE ABREU, CHIEF OF MEDICI'S CIVIL HOUSEHOLD, HAD EXPRESSED TO HIM INTEREST IN A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO BRASILIA DURING THE MEDICI PERIOD (EFFECTIVELY, BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR). THE STATEMENT BY LEITAO DE ABREU WAS MADE, ACCORDING TO FRIELE, IN THE CONTEXT OF REFERENCES TO THE CANCELLATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S PLANS AND THE SECRETARY-DESIGNATE'S VISIT TO MEXICO CITY. FRIELE APPEARED ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE IDEA AND INDICATED TO ME THAT HE INTENDED TO PURSUE THE QUESTION IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. I WAS NONCOMMITTAL WITH FRIELE, SAYING THAT I WOULD HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THE MATTER.

2. SINCE MY TALK WITH FRIELE, I HAVE SEEN ONE INCONSPICUOUS REFERENCE TO THIS POSSIBILITY IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS, THIS BEING A REPORTED COMMENT ATTRIBUTED TO BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OFFICIALLY ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE SECRETARY, IT WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A CONFIDENTIAL

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RETURN OF MEDICI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, GIVEN THE DIFFERENT LEVELS INVOLVED.

3. WE HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT HERE TO THE QUESTION

OF A VISIT BY THE SECRETARY BEFORE THE END OF MEDICI'S TERM. WE HAVE CONCLUDED FIRMLY THAT SUCH A VISIT IS NEITHER NECESSARY NOR DESIRABLE. IN THE FIRST PLACE, WE ARE NOT AT ALL SURE THAT LEITAO DE ABREU WAS SPEAKING FOR ANYONE BUT HIMSELF, EVEN THOUGH HE IS, OF COURSE, VERY CLOSE TO MEDICI. WE BELIEVE, FURTHER, THAT THE PRINCIPAL PLUS OF A VISIT, THE ASSUAGING OF MEDICI'S HURT FEELINGS, IS SIMPLY NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TWILIGHT NATURE OF THE MEDICI GOVERNMENT, TO INCUR THE COMPLICATIONS FOR WASHINGTON INHERENT IN THIS VERY SPECIAL (AND RATHER TRANSPARENT) EFFORT. ABOVE ALL, WE CONSIDER THAT AT THIS LATE DATE THE IMPACT OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS SHOULD BE SAVED FOR THE GEISEL GOVERNMENT.

4. NEVERTHELESS, I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT OTHER STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO REDRESS TO SOME DEGREE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE CANCELLATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL TRIP. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SECRETARY SHOW SOME SPECIAL ATTENTION TO GIBSON BARBOZA WHEN HE IS IN NEW YORK FOR THE UNGA. AT THE LEAST HE SHOULD HAVE A GOOD AND WIDE-RANGING TALK WITH BARBOZA IN NEW YORK (SEE REF B). IT WOULD BE A MARK OF SPECIAL INTEREST IF GB COULD BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON FOR THE TALK OR FOR A CONTINUATION OF THE TALK IN NEW YORK. DURING THE SESSIONS(S), THE SECRETARY COULD GIVE THE PRESIDENTIAL LETTER PROPOSED IN REF A TO GB FOR MEDICI, OR, IF A DECISION AGAINST SUCH A LETTER IS TAKEN, THE SECRETARY WOULD WANT, I ASSUME, TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF THE CANCELLATION. IN EITHER CASE, IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR SECRETARY TO GIVE GIBSON FEELING HE (AND THROUGH HIM GOB) WAS BEING TAKEN INTO ADMINISTRATION'S CONFIDENCE WITH RESPECT TO BOTH WORLDWIDE AND LATIN AMERICAN POLICY, AND THUS THAT DESPITE UNAVOIDABLE CANCELLATION, THE RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED IN DECEMBER 1971 CONTINUES.

5. PLEASE KEEP ME ADVISED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN WASHINGTON'S THINKING ON THESE SUBJECTS.
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CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRASIL05829
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750011-1384
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730963/abqcecia.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A. BRASILIA 5513, B. BRASILIA 5817
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGH-LEVEL VISITS
TAGS: OVIP, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005